



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director and Health Officer

**JOHN F. SCHUNHOFF, Ph.D.**  
Acting Chief Deputy

**Alcohol and Drug Program Administration**

**PATRICK L. OGAWA**, Director  
1000 South Fremont Avenue  
Building A-9 East, Third Floor  
Alhambra, CA 91803  
TEL (626) 299-4193 • FAX (626) 458-7637

[www.lapublichealth.org](http://www.lapublichealth.org)

December 21, 2006



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne B. Burke**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Patrick L. Ogawa, Director  
Alcohol and Drug Program Administration

SUBJECT: **DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT GRANT**

This memo is to inform you that the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and Superior Court intends to submit a proposal in response to the Request for Applications (RFA) for Dependency Drug Court Grant. This RFA was released by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs on November 29, 2006.

**Background**

The Fiscal Year 2006-07 Budget Act has authorized an additional \$3 million of State General Funds for Dependency Drug Court Programs under the Comprehensive Drug Court Implementation program. The California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs in collaboration with the Judicial Council of California and the California Department of Social Services have released the RFA for the Dependency Drug Courts. Eligible proponents, such as Los Angeles County, are limited to counties that submitted a Letter of Interest in applying for funds on September 27, 2006. The funds can be used for the enhancement of current Dependency Drug Court programs and for the planning of new programs. The proposal is due to the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs by December 29, 2006.

The Los Angeles County Superior Court has provided leadership and support for efforts to improve the dependency court system and strengthen interagency coordination and collaboration for addressing the needs of parents. The grant funds will be used to complete a second phase towards the establishment of standardized countywide policies and procedures for all Dependency Courts in Los Angeles County to address the needs of substance-abusing families in the dependency system.

**Proposed Program**

The Dependency Drug Court Team composed of the judicial hearing officer representing the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, a Department of Children and Family Services social worker, County Counsel, child's attorney, parent's attorney, and the treatment provider, have been meeting at least once every two months to evaluate their efforts to reunify children with parents. Based on these meetings, they indicated their interest in using the grant funds to expand the treatment services in the current Dependency Drug Court pilot program.

serving the parents referred from the Department of Children and Family Services Belvedere office, and to plan and implement two new Dependency Drug Court programs.

Since the start of the pilot program in May 2006, the Dependency Drug Court Team has been able to identify barriers to their efforts to reunify children with parents. Some of these barriers were: increased severity of alcohol and drug use; domestic violence; and limited residential beds. The funds for expanding the Dependency Drug Court will be used to address these problems by providing parents with domestic violence counseling, additional residential treatment beds, and alcohol and drug free living centers (sober living environment) that are linked to outpatient counseling services. The pilot program will also increase its capacity from 20 to 40 families.

The two new planned Dependency Drug Court Programs will receive referrals from the Department and Children Family Services offices where substance abuse treatment has been identified as a high need. One court will receive referrals from offices located in Service Planning Area 4 (Metro), which includes downtown Los Angeles and parts of Skid Row. A second court will receive referrals from offices located in Service Planning Area 6 (South) that include South Los Angeles, Compton, and Hawthorne. Each court will have a service capacity of 20 parents.

The substance abuse services for the both the pilot and new programs will include a full range of treatment and recovery support services for the participating families.

#### **Selection of Treatment Agencies**

For the Dependency Drug Court enhancement funds, the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration intends to amend the contract for the California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. This agency is the current treatment provider for the Dependency Drug Court pilot program and is capable of immediately expanding its scope of services for the court.

For the planning funds, the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration intends to conduct a competitive solicitation process immediately upon notice of grant award. The purpose of this process is to select two agencies which are capable of providing a comprehensive range of treatment and recovery support services for families participating in the two new Dependency Drug Court programs. Each court will have one agency designated as the treatment provider.

#### **Funding Amount**

The total requested funding amount will be approximately \$1,766,666 for the time period January 1, 2007 through December 30, 2007. Of this amount, approximately \$600,000 will be allocated for the Dependency Drug Court enhancement, and \$1,000,000 will go towards the planning for the two new courts and treatment agencies. The remaining funds will be for indirect costs and training expenses.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress to secure funds for the Dependency Drug Court. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

PLO:tmd  
H:\PDTA\COMMON\dependency drug court deputy memo.doc

c: The Honorable Michael Nash  
Alisa Katz  
Board Relations  
Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.  
Eva Vera